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Docket No. SPO-120
Serial No. 10/522,047Remarks

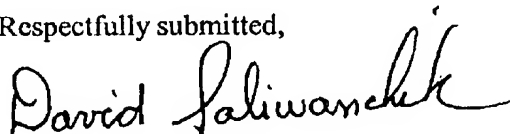
A Preliminary Amendment dated January 19, 2005 was submitted to the U.S. Patent Office with the filing of a national stage application corresponding to PCT/JP03/09324. After amendments made in the Preliminary Amendment dated January 19, 2005, claims 1-16 were pending in the subject application. Support for the amendment set forth herein can be found at, for example, page 4, lines 30-31 of the subject specification. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Accordingly, by this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-16 remain before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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